

### **AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

#### **Listing of Claims:**

- 1.-3. (Cancelled)
4. (Previously Presented) The control element according to claim 20, wherein the control element (11) is equipped with a rotatable actuation disc (22).
5. (Previously Presented) The control element according to claim 4, wherein the actuation disc (22) is rotatable around an axis (14) of the control element (11) and is pivoted and supported over transmission elements (26) on the surface (20) of the control element (11).
6. (Previously Presented) The control element according to claim 20, wherein the control element (11) exhibits a smooth surface (20).
7. (Previously Presented) The control element according to claim 4, wherein the actuation disc (22) exhibits a structured surface (20).
8. (Previously presented) The control element according to claim 4, wherein the actuation disc (22) exhibits a geometric form tuned to the control element (11).
9. (Currently Amended) The control element according to claim 4, wherein the actuation disc (22) is shaped like a cap having a rounded edge (24) terminating in a border area (25) projecting downwardly from the actuation disc (22), wherein the border area (25) is disposed between but without contacting the disc-shaped control element (11) and the application casing (15).

10. (Previously Presented) The control element according to claim 20, wherein the control element (11) exhibits tick marks (12) consisting of twelve marks in regular intervals.
11. (Previously Presented) The control element according to claim 4, wherein the appliance casing (15) exhibits tick marks (23) next to the edge of the control element (12) consisting of twelve marks in regular intervals where the actuation disc (22) is arranged on the control element (11).
12. (Cancelled)
13. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 25, wherein a stronger increasing pressure during the actuation along the edge of the control element (11) leads to a faster cursor movement and a weaker pressure along the edge of the control element (11) leads to a slower cursor movement.
14. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 25, further comprising selecting a menu by actuating the edge of the control element (11), the position of the actuation on the control element (11) leading to a highlighting of a the menu item at the corresponding position on a display (84, 92).
15. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 25, further comprising a display of a character repertoire upon actuation of the edge of the control element (11), the position of the actuation on the surface (20) of the control element (11) leading to a highlighting of a character at the corresponding position on a display (84) and the most recently highlighted character is input when the control element (11) is released.
16. (Cancelled)

17. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 13, wherein a highlighting of a character can be selected by changing positions during the actuated state of the control element (11).

18. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 13, wherein a character repertoire consists of the letters "A" to "M" at the upper edge of the screen and the letters "N" to "Z" at the lower edge of the screen.

19. (Cancelled)

20. (Currently Amended) A control element for electronic appliances comprising  
a disc-shaped control element (11) having a circular upper surface (20) and an underside (16), the circular upper surface (20) and the underside (16) being parallel to one another across the entire disc-shaped control element (11);

an application casing (15);

a sensor (18) mounted against the underside (16);

a plurality of springs (17) positioned between the application casing (15) and the underside (16) of the disc-shaped control element (11) in a ring-shaped fashion and arranged close to an edge of the disc-shaped control element (11);

the disc-shaped control element (11), the sensor (18) and the plurality of springs (17) are mounted about a common axis (14);

the disc-shaped control element (11) is tiltable about the axis by being manually manipulated any point along a circumference of the circular surface (20), causing the sensors to provide a cursor movement.

21. (Currently Amended) A control element for electronic appliances comprising

a disc-shaped control element (11) having a circular surface (20) and an underside (16);

a transmission element (26) arranged on the disc-shaped control element;

a rotatable actuation disc (22) arranged on the transmission element (26), the rotatable actuation disc (22) having about its perimeter a downwardly projecting border area (25);

an application casing (15), the border area (25) being disposed between but without contacting the disc-shaped control element (11) and the application casing (15);

a sensor (18) mounted against the underside (16) and above the application casing (15);

a plurality of springs (17) arranged between the application casing (15) and the underside (16) of the disc-shaped control element (11);

the disc-shaped control element (11), the sensor (18) and the plurality of springs (17) are mounted about a common axis (14);

the disc-shaped control element (11) is tiltable about the axis by manually rotating the actuation disc (22) at any point along a circumference of the actuation disc (22), causing the sensors to provide a cursor movement.

22. (Previously Presented) The control element according to claim 20, where the control element includes tick marks.

23. (Previously Presented) The control element according to claim 21, wherein the rotatable actuation disc (22) includes tick marks.

24. (Previously Presented) The control element according to claim 23, wherein the rotatable actuation disc (22) includes rounded edges (24).

25. (Previously Presented) A method for controlling electronic appliances, comprising the steps of

providing a disc-shaped control element having a surface and being tiltable around an axis,

providing a sensor, which is axially disposed below the disc-shaped control element,

providing a plurality of springs arranged axially around the sensor,

sliding a finger over the disc-shaped control element to provide pressure onto an edge of the disc-shaped control element, pressing down the on at least one of the plurality of springs, providing a tilt of the disc-shaped control element, and actuating a sensor located below the disc-shaped control element thereby registering the tilt,  
connecting the sensor to a micro processor controlling a cursor movement,  
continuing the sliding of the finger over the disc-shaped control element for continued cursor movement.

26. (New) The control element according to claim 20, wherein no direct contact exists between the control element (11) and the application casing (15), and the only indirect contact between the control element (11) and the application casing (15) is via the plural springs (17).

27. (New) The method according to claim 25, wherein the surface of the disc-shaped control element is parallel to its underside across the entire disc-shaped control element.

28. (New) The method according to claim 25, wherein registering the tilt comprises evaluating the sensors to determine a position of actuation of the control element.